

Nez Perce National Forest  
1005 Highway 13  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
208-983-5143



Clearwater National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
208-476-8200

## NEWS RELEASE - FIRE UPDATE

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**CONTACT:** Laura Smith

**DATE:** September 5, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST:**

The Meadow Fire on the Red River Ranger District was detected on Sunday and has grown from 600 acres to an estimated 5500-6000 acres. It is located approximately 12 airline miles southeast of Elk City.

**An area closure is in effect due to the fire's explosive growth and continuing forecasts for hot and dry conditions. The closure affects everything east of Road 1172 including the Magruder Corridor Road 468. The Red River Hot Springs Road 234 is currently open. Details regarding the closures are posted at:**

**<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>**.

Turman's Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the Meadow Fire and is based out of the Red River Ranger Station. A contact number for the information officer on the team is currently not available.

The 222 Fire located near Dixie is contained and in mop up stage.

The Salmon River District reported one new fire, the Twin Lakes Fire, and it is staffed. No new fires were reported on the Red River, Clearwater or Moose Creek Ranger Districts.

### **CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST:**

The Powell Ranger District's Rabbit Fire, a remote wildland fire use fire that is being allowed to burn for its resource benefits, is now estimated at 800+ acres. The fire is located approximately 8 airline miles south of Powell (and roughly four miles north of Elk Summit).

Concerns about public safety prompted forest officials to close several roads and many trails in the Elk Summit area. Closures affect Forest Roads No. 360 (Elk Summit), 358 and 359 and Forest Trails No. 79, 45, 486, 1, 22, 28, 6, 10, 50, and 903. District personnel are currently evaluating the need for additional closures, including a closure affecting a section of Jerry Johnson Trail No. 49.

The Milepost 128 Fire, located on the Forest's Lochsa Ranger District, had no significant growth reported and is currently 120 acres. It is located north of U.S. Highway 12

about 55 miles east of Kooskia. Flaggers continue to direct traffic on the highway. Suppression tactics will begin today with a helicopter making water drops.

No new fires were reported on any of the Clearwater National Forest's Ranger Districts.

Several wildland fire use fires in the Clearwater National Forest's backcountry are being allowed to burn to improve forest conditions and big-game habitat. Information about these fires is posted on the Forest's website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater>.

For public safety, additional road and trail closures remain in effect. Specific information is posted at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/VisitorInfo/Assets/travel\\_info](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/VisitorInfo/Assets/travel_info).

### **HEAVENS GATE COMPLEX**

The Heaven's Gate Complex is still projected to be 22,500 acres. It is 50% contained with a new full containment date projected for November 15.

The complex consists of four fires: the 18,810-acre Black Butte Fire located in, and west of, the Gospel-Hump Wilderness; the 3,625-acre Green Acres Fire located in the Nez Perce National Forest and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; the 55-acre Horse Heaven Fire in Hells Canyon; and the 10-acre McCrea Fire in the Nez Perce National Forest.

There are 268 personnel assigned to the fire. They are supported by five aircraft, eight fire engines, four water tenders and three bulldozers.

Grant's Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team will assume command today at 6:00 a.m.

Air patrol will continue on the Green Acres, Horse Heaven, McCrea fires and the east flank of the Black Butte fire including the Plummer spot fire. Mop up of hot spots will continue on the Green Acres fire.

Crews will begin structure protection efforts around threatened structures in the Florence area. Crews will patrol the Big Salmon road south of the Salmon River and the 394 Road on the western flank, checking for spot fires.

An area closure associated with the Black Butte Fire remains in effect for much of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. It encompasses the southwestern 1/3 of the Wilderness between Forest Road No. 444 and the Salmon River. The western boundary originates at the mouth of Kelly Creek, north to Little Slate Saddle, then along Forest Road No. 394 to just east of Florence. It then ties back into the Wilderness north of Road No. 9922. Forest Roads No. 394 and 643 are also closed. **Most of the Florence Basin area is closed, visitors can access Road 221, but fire managers recommend not traveling through the area due to**

**fire traffic and smoke conditions.**

The closure associated with the Green Acres Fire remains in effect for that portion of the Hells Canyon Wilderness from Windy Saddle north to Forest Road No. 1819 and west to the Snake River. Seven Devils Road No. 517 and Seven Devils Campground have been reopened; however, trails 124, 140, 58 and 101 north from the campground remain closed.

Additional information regarding the fire complex and related closures are available at:

Nez Perce National Forest – <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc>

Heavens Gate Complex – <http://fs.fed.us/r1/fire/incident/teams/stanich>

inciWeb Incident Information – <http://www.inciweb.org>

**Please contact Information Officer Ted Pettis at (208) 628-3589 for further information regarding the Heavens Gate Fire Complex.**

**OTHER AGENCIES**

No new fires were reported by Craig Mountain (IDL), Maggie Creek (IDL), CPTPA or the BLM.

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